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Director of
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National Intelligence Daily

*Monday
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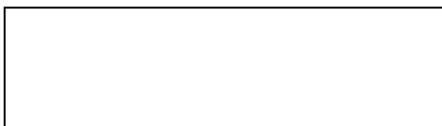
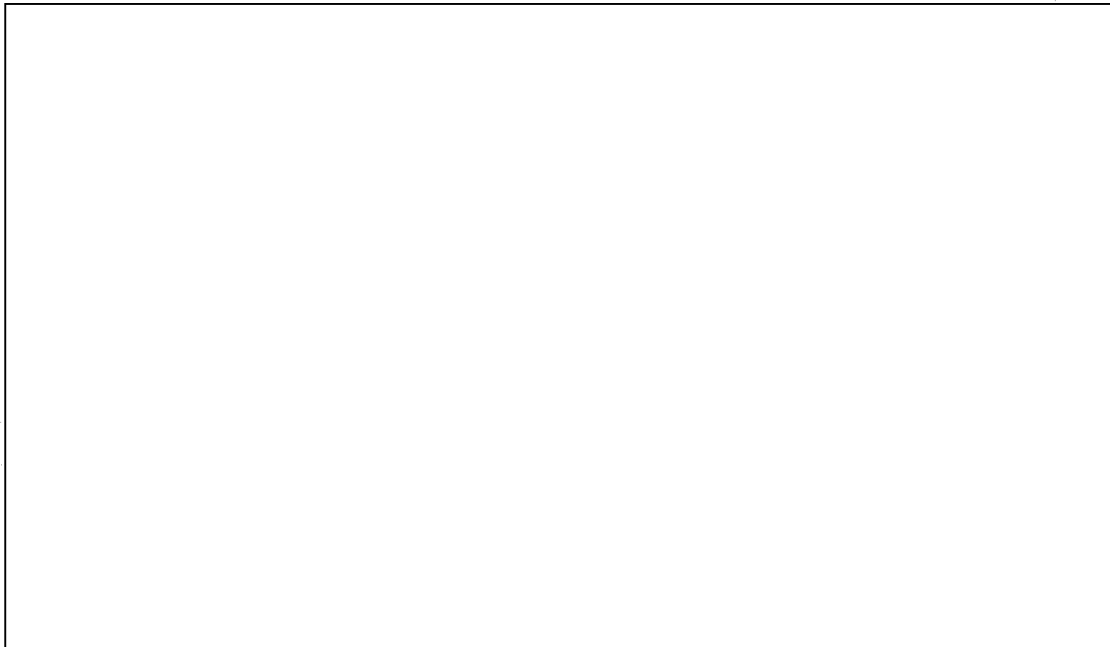
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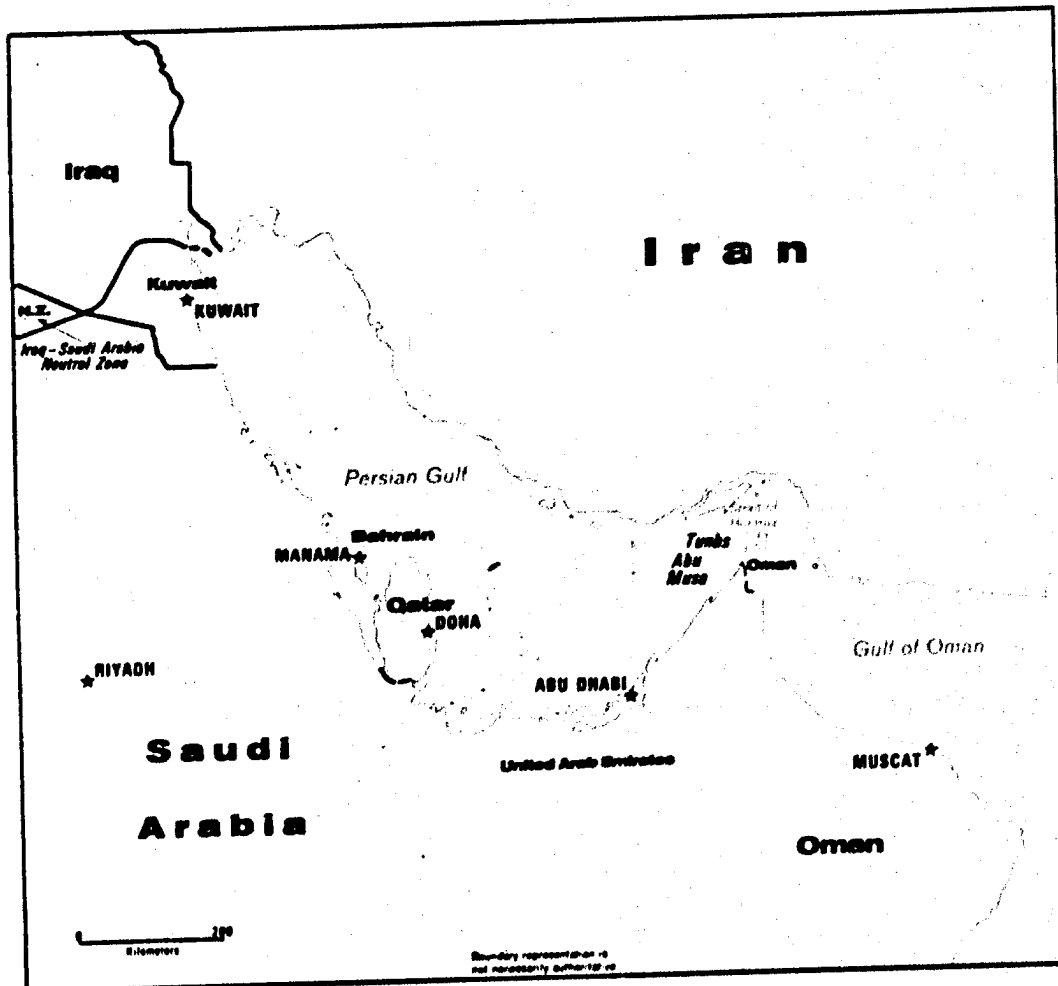
Situation Reports

Iran 1



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SITUATION REPORTS

IRAN

The Revolutionary Council's announcement that it will refer the hostage transfer issue to Ayatollah Khomeini reflects the Council's internal divisions. []

Although Foreign Minister Ghotbzadeh said the Council has made its own decision, it is more likely that it has simply resolved to give Khomeini responsibility for handling the problem. The hardliners on the Council led by Ayatollah Beheshti's Islamic Republic Party this week-end announced their opposition to any transfer of the hostages from the militants' control. One senior IRP official met with Khomeini and said no transfer is likely. []

President Bani-Sadr on Saturday reiterated that the hostage crisis is diverting Iran's attention from its enormous domestic and international problems. []

Bani-Sadr has endorsed former Irish Foreign Minister MacBride's proposal to try the Shah in absentia and probably is also backing the efforts of Archbishop Capucci, who met with the militants yesterday to urge them to hand the hostages over to the government. Neither alternative appears to enjoy much support from the hardliners in the Revolutionary Council, the militants, or Ayatollah Khomeini. []

Relations With Iraq

Relations between Baghdad and Tehran continue to deteriorate. Baghdad radio indicated yesterday that the Iraqi Foreign Minister has urged Tehran to withdraw immediately its forces from several small islands in the Strait of Hormuz occupied by the Shah in 1971. The

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islands--Abu Musa and the Tunbs--have long been disputed by Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Bani-Sadr recently aroused Arab opposition by reiterating Tehran's determination to hold onto them. The Iraqis doubtless hope to rally Arab support in their struggle with Iran by focusing attention on the islands. [redacted]

Foreign Minister Ghotbzadeh attacked the Iraqi Government on television last night and indicated that he has told Iranian diplomats to leave Iraq immediately. He also stated that the Iranian and Iraqi peoples would overthrow the Iraqi Government. [redacted]

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